

Attorney Docket No. 2001B046

Ginter discloses "system and techniques for secure transaction management....It also relates to systems and techniques that manage, including meter and/or limit and/or otherwise monitor use of electronically stored and/or disseminated information." (Col 1.) According to Ginter, "The present invention provides a new kind of 'virtual distribution environment' (called 'VDE' in this document) that secures, administers and audits electronic information use."

Ginter does not disclose a contract database, much less one comprising data obtained from multiple contract documents. If the examiner disagrees with this statement, a specific column and line citation would be appreciated.

Ginter furthermore does not disclose that "said data [may be] organised into fields comprising: draft contract status, contract identifier, contract type, effective date, and expiration date." Again, if the examiner disagrees with this statement, a specific column and line citation would be appreciated.

It is admitted that Ginter does not disclose a field comprising obligation type, owner, status or due date, however, Wical, col 2 ln 2-30 is cited for this missing subject matter and it reads as follows:

The theme vector processor receives thematic tags for words and phrases in the input discourse, wherein the thematic tags indicate applicability of thematic constructions that define content of discourse. In addition, theme terms are identified based on the content carrying words of the input discourse. The theme vector processor identifies themes of the input discourse, including identifying the relative importance of the themes in the input discourse, based on the thematic tags and the theme terms. Specifically, the theme vector processor generates a them strength for the theme terms. The theme strength indicates relative thematic importance of the theme terms in the input discourse.

In one embodiment, the theme vector processor generates theme concepts for each theme term in the input discourse through use of a knowledge catalog. The knowledge catalog includes independent and parallel static ontologies arranged in a hierarchical structure. The static ontologies contain knowledge concepts and present a world view of knowledge. The theme vector processor utilizes the static ontologies to generate a theme concept for a theme term by extracting a knowledge concept from a higher level node in the hierarchical structure of the static ontologies.

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As can be seen from these passages, Wical has nothing to do with contracts, agreements, or databases or management thereof. Rather Wical is solely concerned with the field of computational linguistics.

The examiner bears the initial burden of providing a convincing reason as to why there is some suggestion in the prior art to do what has been claimed. And, the prior art reference (or references) must teach or suggest all the claimed limitations. [See MPEP 2143 citing *Ex parte Clapp*, 227 USPQ 972, 973 (Bd. Pat.App. & Inter. 1985)].

Applicants are not able to follow the examiner's reasoning as to how Wical supplies the suggestion or disclosure of contract obligation type, owner, status or due date in any context remotely related to that of applicant's claims. Applicant's therefore respectfully submit that prima facie obviousness has not been established, and that Ginter in view of Wical fails to suggest applicant's claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants invite the examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any issues outstanding which have not been presented to the examiner's satisfaction.

Respectfully submitted,

7/18/05
Date

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